UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/909
S/25458
22 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 March 1993 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which retains the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your attention.

In the past several months, the level of repressive measures and lethal actions by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people living in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, has increased dramatically. This reflects what appears to be a new policy adopted by the Government of Israel. Several public statements made by high-level Israeli officials have also clearly incited further violence against Palestinians. Today three Palestinian youths were killed by the Israeli army, including Mohamed Tawfik Jarbouh, a Palestinian child 11 years of age from the Rafah refugee camp, who was killed when he was hit in the neck by a bullet. Further, four Palestinians were killed over this past weekend. In the Gaza Strip alone, since 1 December 1992, 52 Palestinians, including 17 children under 16 years of age, have been killed by Israeli troops or settlers, some cases of which have been tantamount to intentional killing. The effects of the presence and actions of the Israeli colonial settlers, who have been brought to the occupied Palestinian territory by the Israeli authorities in blatant violation of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, 1/ which is

applicable to all the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, are alarming as the pattern of killing and injuring Palestinian civilians by armed settlers continues to rise.

During the same time period, since 1 December 1992, approximately 2,000 Palestinian civilians have been wounded and injured. This figure includes over 400 children who have been shot by live ammunition. These numbers are disturbing, for the total of fatalities for the past four months has been higher than that recorded during the first four months of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Such Israeli policies and practices drastically undermine the efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East. This represents yet another Israeli obstacle, in addition to the obstacle of the unresolved deportee crisis due to Israel's non-compliance with Security Council resolution 799 (1992) of 18 December 1992, to the resumption of negotiations in the current peace process.

The above-mentioned developments lead us to reiterate our belief in the necessity for the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities and provide, in accordance with resolution 681 (1990) of 20 December 1990, international protection for the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation. In this regard, we recall your report of 25 January 1993 (S/25149). We, as the representative of the Palestinian people, request that the Security Council formally consider this situation, with the aim of adopting concrete measures to provide protection for the Palestinian people in the framework of Security Council resolution 681 (1990).

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.